



## Janne Kearney: Eye Candy

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A broad spectrum of colourful images offering a message of personal empowerment and sexual autonomy, Janne Kearney presents the exhibition, *Eye Candy* at the Flinders Lane Gallery, as part of the 2024 Midsumma Festival.

In *Eye Candy*, Kearney positions her subjects against backgrounds of densely interlocking and overlapping shapes, in a spectrum of bold colour. Her subjects display an overt and playful sexuality, suggestively licking lolly pops and returning the viewers' gaze unabashed.

By portraying her subjects as anything but passive, Kearney subverts the patriarchal male gaze by returning it assuredly back at the viewer. In doing so she creates a space in her art where all forms of sexual and gender orientation are not just accepted but celebrated.

Kearney has exhibited widely and has an impressive award history. Most recently Kearney has been announced as the winner of the inaugural National Capital Art Prize (2021), a finalist in the Portia Geach Memorial Award (2021, 2020, 2018), Kennedy Prize (2021), National Capital Art Prize (2022, 2021), the winner of the Lethbridge 20000 Art Award (2020), and a finalist in the Lethbridge 20000 Art Award (2022), the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award (2020), the Lester Prize (2020) and the Clayton UTZ Art Award (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016).